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We'll build this city

In a high-powered training workshop, a new UCT initiative helped show senior leadership teams from South Africa's metros how to turn their cities around

There are many ways to get a city running well. UCT's new Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice (GSDPP) likes to start at the top.

Early in March they ran a leadership training course for the top political and management teams of all eight South African metros. The aim of the course, titled *Leadership in Local Government: Building globally competitive cities*, is, in the words of the official course notes, "to empower the senior leadership teams (political principals and top management) in the metros in South Africa to develop and implement reforms to achieve rapid results for improved city performance in support of a clearly defined political mandate".

"The course is designed to get our cities moving," says the GSDPP's Judith Cornell. "And particularly to deal with the problems of infrastructure and planning in our cities."

Over the first three days of the course, the political teams – the mayors and councillors – reflected on the challenges facing the metros, after which they left the city managers and managers responsible for finance, planning, housing and infrastructure/public transport to flesh out those mandates, draw up objectives and

come up with action plans to deliver short- and medium-term objectives (think 100 days).

In keeping with its stature, the course came with big brand names behind it. It was the coming-out project of the Cities Support Programme of the National Treasury, who was also footing the bill. The course was developed by the GSDPP in collaboration with the World Bank Institute. And it has the backing of the South African Local Government Association.

Probably the first such programme of its kind in Africa, the organisers made a point of keeping the course 'local'. So the programme was designed around local issues, called on local speakers and drew on local case studies.

When the speakers weren't local, they could relate to the context. Among the guests were Enrique Peñalosa, former mayor of Bogotá, Colombia; Ronald MacLean Abaroa, who in 1985 became the first democratically elected mayor of La Paz, Bolivia; and Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, former mayor of the Rwandan capital, Kigali, and now deputy executive director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, aka UN-Habitat.

"We wanted people who had faced similar problems, with similar

Photo by Bruce Sutherland, City of Cape Town.



resources," explains Cornell.

And no-one started the course cold. The consultants have visited all the metros to brief them, while the participants had to come prepared with outlines of plans and projects, and should even have identified a parcel of land for a particular kind of housing

development that will be explored in the course.

There's also support after the course. The GSDPP facilitation team will offer follow-up support visits and the World Bank Institute will offer rapid-results coaches, at the request of any of the metros.

According to Cornell, the course went well, with "intense engagement" by the metro teams and strong interest in the next stages – both the implementation of the plans once the teams go home, and the potential for follow-up courses, both for the metros and for the next level of municipalities. ■

Four more national chairs for UCT

UCT picked up a quartet of new research chairs from the 60 awarded through the South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) in February.

The four new chairs are in Stable Isotopes in Archaeology and Palaeo-environmental Studies, to be hosted in the Department of Archaeology; the chair in Environmental and Social Dimensions of the Bio-Economy, to be held in the Department of Environmental and Geographical Science; the chair in Reaction Engineering, which will be located in the Department of Chemical Engineering; and a chair in Industrial Computational Fluid Dynamics, which will be housed in the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

The next step is for UCT to prepare full proposals for these chairs, and to determine who the holders of these four new chairs will be.

The government has invested over R1.1 billion in the SARChI initiative since its inception in 2005. In this instalment, said Science & Technology Minister Naledi Pandor when she announced the chairs, special consideration had been given to the universities of technology, rural-based institutions and those that had not up to now participated in the programme. Following the award of the 60 new chairs, 21 universities will be hosting chairs instead of the previous 16.

Many of the new chairs were also in keeping with themes of national priority, namely the creation of decent work and sustainable livelihoods, education, health, rural development, and the fight against crime and corruption.

More chairs were also awarded to institutions that previ-

ously had fewer chairs, Pandor explained. The University of the Western Cape, for example, which had until now held only four chairs, was awarded seven in this round, more than any other institution.

But UCT, now home to no fewer than 32 SARChI chairs from the 154 awarded in total so far, has no reason to complain. The university currently holds more than one-fifth of the national chairs.

"The exceptional quality of the proposals that came from all over UCT in this round gave me renewed pride in the depth of our research," said the deputy vice-chancellor responsible for research, Professor Danie Visser. "And we will continue to seek ways to advance the important research agendas that have surfaced through this process." ■



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Campus highlights

Expert honoured for lifetime's seabird research

The birds weren't the only drawcard on John Cooper's recent trip to Hawaii – the retired UCT ornithologist was also there to accept a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Pacific Seabird Group (PSG). In February, the US-based PSG honoured Cooper for his nearly four decades of study into seabirds. Cooper, now a research associate at the DST-NRF Centre of Excellence for Invasion Biology at Stellenbosch University, retired from UCT in 2008 after 35 years of research on seabird biology and conservation with the Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology and the Animal Demography Unit.

Tracking Africa's mammals

Much of what is known about mammal distribution in Africa is based on historical – and often outdated – records. The African Mammal Atlas Project (MammalMAP), run by UCT's Animal Demography Unit (ADU), will aim to update those records. According to Dr Tali Hoffman, MammalMAP project co-ordinator, the work will involve consolidating evidence of mammal occurrence in a given location (obtained from camera traps, photographs and other reliable records) into an open-access digital database. Although MammalMAP will only officially be launched in July, the project has already received 5 000 contributions from more than 70 registered observers.

Secrecy bill's review vital to (re)public



Yet another organisation has cautioned government that the Protection of State Information Bill threatens various fundamental principles enshrined in the Constitution. The UCT Students Against Secrecy movement recently made a written submission to the National Council of Provinces' (NCOP) Ad Hoc Committee on the Protection of State Information Bill. In its submission, the student group takes objection to key parts of the Bill, including the powers to classify information, appeals to the classification review panel, and the [lack of a] public interest defence.

New physios solemnly swear...



Each year, just days before they enter the clinical part of their studies and begin diagnosing and treating patients for the first time, UCT second-year students from the Division of Physiotherapy are required to formally pledge their commitment to upholding the strictest standards in the services they offer. Which they did once again at an oaths ceremony in February. "It is about getting them to take seriously what it means to be a physiotherapist, and how that impacts on their relationship with their patients, and their colleagues," explained the chair of the faculty's Professional Standards Committee, James Irlam.

Baxter's Sunday market

Cape Town market lovers are in for a treat as the Baxter Theatre Centre's garden will be transformed into a food and goods market on Sundays. An initiative of the Baxter Theatre Centre in conjunction with Mark Coleman of Jump Events, the Baxter Food & Goods Market, which starts on 4 March and will run from 10h30 to 17h00, will see exhibitors displaying and selling foods, artisanal products, fresh produce, and vintage and other unique items. For further enquiries and information on how to become a stall-holder, please contact Coleman on 071 493 4329 or mark-coleman@gmail.com, or visit www.baxtermarket.blogspot.com.

NY alumni meet with O'Regan



The Big Apple was the backdrop for a recent breakfast between US-based law alumni and fellow UCT graduate, former Constitutional Court

judge Kate O'Regan. O'Regan was the guest speaker at the gathering, set up by New York-based attorney and chairperson of the UCT Fund, Trevor Norwitz. In picture, Judge Kate O'Regan (front left), appears with Norwitz (on her left), husband Alec Freund (far left, back), and alumni Laura-Lee Atkinson-Hope, Jaclyn Rabin, Julie Kourie, Sheldon Laing, Mieke Krynauw and Emma Ahrens.

Democracy in action



Comment, criticise and compliment. These are the three C's steering the Students' Representative Council (SRC)'s C³ campaign, launched on 28 February when SRC members struck up off-the-cuff conversations with startled students in the Kramer building. By going grassroots, the SRC is hoping to hear students' thoughts on what's good, what's not and what's missing from UCT student leadership. The week-long campaign saw the red-clad SRC visit a campus during lunch-time and a residence at supper-time to get the lay of the land. "We need to be more visible, which is the main complaint people have all the time about the SRC," said Nkateko Mnisi, media and communications co-ordinator.

Online labour law service

UCT Law@work has joined forces with online-education company GetSmarter to launch a web-based service that will provide employment relations news, training and a wealth of other information. Aimed at a community of human resources personnel, managers, business owners and anyone else dealing with employment issues and labour relations in the workplace, the UCT (Law@Work) Labour Law Club intends to take HR support to new levels. Members will receive weekly newsletters, video tutorials, employment relations documents and access to an active discussion platform. In picture is Richard Burge of Law@Work.

Humanities 'wannabes'



Business student on the money

UCT student Salma Kagee (second from left in picture) obviously has a knack for the Nedbank Old Mutual Budget Speech Competition. Just hours after delivering his budget speech on 22 February, Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan named Kagee, a master's student in economics, as the winner of the competition's postgraduate category for 2011. Just a year ago, Kagee had collected the title as the top student in the 2010 undergraduate category, so with her latest win becoming the first student in the competition's 40 years to complete such a double.

The dreams of nine 'wannabes' came true this year when they joined UCT as part the Faculty of Humanities' new recruitment and support programme, wannabe@humanities. The programme was launched last year to identify and support prospective applicants from among a pool of grade 11 and 12 learners from disadvantaged schools. During the year, participants attended a series of workshops designed to prepare them for UCT life, covering everything from admissions and funding to career choices.

Africa's urbanisation



With 27 of the world's fastest-growing cities, Africa boasts the world's most rapid urbanisation, which necessarily impacts on the continent's biodiversity and ecosystems. To highlight those problems, as well as some of the unique features of urbanisation on the continent, UCT's African Centre for Cities recently co-hosted a workshop with the Stockholm Resilience Centre. The aim of the workshop was to gather an African perspective on urbanisation, for inclusion in the Cities and Biodiversity Outlook publications of

the United Nations Environment Programme's Convention on Biological Diversity. The publications will present the first ever global assessment of the links between urbanisation, biodiversity and ecosystem services. The workshop brought together local government officials, planners, policy-makers, NGOs and researchers from seven southern African countries.

UCT in R3m CCTV initiative

UCT is partnering with SAB Miller and the City of Cape Town in an initiative to install CCTV cameras along Main Road from Anzio Road, Observatory, to the SAB Brewery site in Newlands.

Each partner will provide R1 million to help fund the initiative. The City will monitor the cameras from its facilities in Goodwood.

Keeping tighter surveillance along the route on Main Road will assist all three partners. SAB Miller delivery trucks travel along Main Road; many UCT staff and students use this route; and the road is heavily travelled by commuters, school children and visitors to Cape Town.

"It was logical to create a partnership between business, the university and the city to increase security in this area," said John Critien, executive director of properties and services.

This route is within the Groote Schuur City Improvement District, which UCT helped set up in response to two fatal attacks on students in 2009 and 2010, while they were off campus and near Main Road.

The recommendation will go to the City's full council for approval. ■

Knighthood for UCT lecturer

Lecturer Wilhelm Snyman has become the latest UCT scholar to receive the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, aka the Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana.

Snyman was formally presented with the order at the rank of Cavaliere, a knighthood, at a recent reception at the residence of the Italian ambassador to South Africa, Dr Vincenzo

Schioppa. The honour was bestowed on Snyman, a lecturer in the School of Languages & Literatures, for his contribution to fostering an awareness of Italian language and culture in South Africa.

A graduate of Stellenbosch University, Snyman undertook his research at the University of Siena, Italy, for his master's degree on the Italian phi-

losopher and poet, Carlo Michelstaedter. In 2008, Snyman and former UCT senior lecturer Giuseppe Stellardi won the Italian government translation prize for their translation of Michelstaedter's *La persuasione e la retorica* (Persuasion and Rhetoric).

During Snyman's more than 10 years as arts journalist and, later, acting arts editor on the Cape Times, he wrote

extensively on Italian-related themes and figures, including features on Italian artists, musicians and cineastes. Besides teaching the language, Snyman sees his task as one of broadening students' horizons by helping them to engage critically with some of the major Italian writers, including Machiavelli, Leopardi, Pirandello and Bassani.

"One may regret many things

in life, but never the acquisition of another language; and Italian comes with an unsurpassed cultural heritage that has influenced creativity all over the world," he says.

Other UCT recipients of the Italian knighthood are Professor Mino Caira and Emeritus Professor Luigi Nassimbeni, both of the Department of Chemistry. ■



Ubuntu: Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane spoke of how South Africans should embrace Africa and South Africa's long diplomatic traditions, and the continent's potential. (Download the podcast of the lecture at <http://www.uct.ac.za/news/multimedia/sound/2012/>.)

DIRCO – Department of International Relations and Co-operation

Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane made no bones about the purpose of her lecture at UCT on 6 March – to offset some of the Afropessimism so common in the country.

So in her lecture, titled *Celebrating the Legacy of Liberation Movements in Africa: Freedom through diplomacy*, Nkoana-Mashabane, minister of international relations and co-operation, took the audience on a trip back into Africa's diplomatic past. Codified it may have been in Europe, but diplomacy is not a European invention, she argued.

It's even older, Nkoana-Mashabane added, than the African National Congress, founded as the South African Native National Congress in 1912

and which has played a leading role in diplomacy on the continent for the past 100 years. Rather, she turned the clock back to the 1600s and the "first three diplomats of the liberation struggle in this country" – the three Khoi (Autshumao, aka Herry; Krotoa, aka Eva; and Doman) who acted as interpreters between their own people and the early Dutch settlers.

Since then, liberation movements like the ANC – "a force to be reckoned with in the international arena" – and others have played a defining role in diplomatic practices in Africa and further afield, said Nkoana-Mashabane.

Yet despite this long tradition and the op-

portunities now opening up in Africa, many South Africans remain despondent about the future of the continent, said the minister. She encouraged the audience to embrace the continent and its possibilities.

"South Africa has a leadership role to play in removing pessimism against our mother continent," she said. "This responsibility has been bestowed on us by history."

In thanking the minister, Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price spoke of how this vision fits in with UCT's own Afropolitan ambitions to create generations of graduates "with a deep familiarity of the continent and its peoples". ■

UCT to honour magnificent seven

UCT will award no fewer than seven honorary degrees this year, the recipients drawn from the arts, economics, laws, medicine and science.

Artist **Marlene Dumas** will receive a Doctor of Fine Arts degree. Widely regarded as one of the most influential painters working today, Dumas has continuously explored the complex range of human emotions. Born in Cape Town, she obtained a fine arts degree from UCT's Michaelis School of Fine Art before continuing her studies in the Netherlands. Her work appears in collections in many countries, including South Africa, the US, Japan and across Europe.

British theoretical physicist **Jonathan Ellis**, hailed as one of the pioneers working at the interface between particle physics, astrophysics, cosmology and quantum gravity, will receive a Doctor of Science degree. Ellis – who in 1976 proposed techniques to find the elementary particular gluon – spent much of his scholarly career with the European Centre for Nuclear Research. Currently the Clerk Maxwell Professor of Theoretical Physics at King's College London, he has also made substantial contributions to physics in South Africa.

Allan Gray, the founder of Allan Gray Limited, the largest privately-owned investment management firm in Southern Africa, will receive a Doctor of Economic Science degree. Educated at Rhodes and Harvard, where he obtained an MBA, Gray has been described as arguably the most successful self-made South African business executive. A philanthropist who has consistently supported higher education in South Africa, he is renowned for his pioneering approach to investment.

Nicholas Haysom, who will be awarded a Doctor of Law degree, is a leading expert on constitutional processes and conflict resolution. A UCT law graduate, Haysom was directly involved as both a negotiator and an advisor in the negotiation of South Africa's interim and final constitutions. He served as then President Nelson Mandela's legal advisor, and in 2007 was appointed as political director in the executive office of the United Nations Secretary-General, advising on missions around the globe.

Basil Jones and **Adrian Kohler** of the Handspring Puppet Company will receive Doctor of Literature degrees, recognising their outstanding contributions to contemporary theatre. Both graduated from the Michaelis School of Fine Art at UCT in 1974, and established the company, along with two other graduates, in 1981. Handspring has since become one of the best known and respected puppet companies in the world, their collaboration with, among others, the Royal National Theatre's *Warhorse* project winning international acclaim.

Born and trained in Zimbabwe, **David Sanders** is an iconic figure in public health and will be presented with a Doctor of Science in Medicine degree. Sanders' work has helped shape primary health care locally and internationally. Based at the University of the Western Cape, where he established South Africa's first and much-mimicked multidisciplinary master's programme in public health, he works on policy and service issues with national and international organisations, including the WHO and Save the Children.

These recipients will be presented with their degrees over the June and December graduation ceremonies. The mid-year graduation ceremonies will take place on 7 and 8 June, while the end-of-the-year ceremonies run from 12 to 18 December. ■

VC joins world leaders at Davos

There are many good reasons to join the annual pilgrimage to Davos, Switzerland, for the fishbowl meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF), says Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price.

Especially if, as in the case of Price in January, you're part of a select band of 20 to 25 university leaders who make up the Global University Leaders Forum (GULF), one of the WEF's recognised academic networks. All the more pressing if, as is the case again, UCT is the only African university to be represented in GULF.

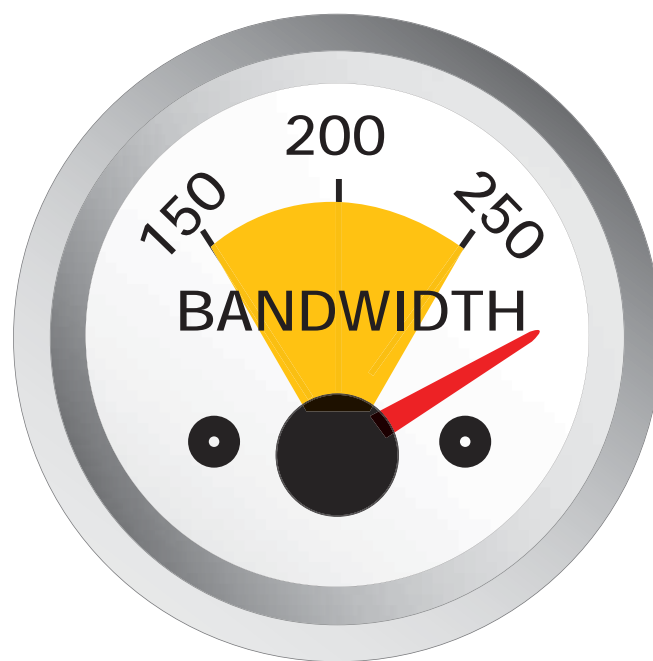
This year, the GULF conversations covered topics such as the establishment of satellite campuses in other countries, as a growing number of US and European universities are doing in Africa and Southeast Asia; and worries that Grand Challenge research funding – large funding typically targeting big-name research items such as infectious disease or the environment – is siphoning funding from more fundamental research.

Aside from the GULF meeting,

reports Price, in Davos for his third meeting as UCT vice-chancellor, you get to hear first-hand from heads of state, captains of industry and a spectrum of scholars their thoughts on some of the world's most pressing concerns. Price also chaired a session on innovations in education.

"One of the real benefits of being in Davos", says Price, "is the networking – informal, rare face-time with South African and international ministers, business leaders and scholars, as well influential UCT alumni from around the world. Otherwise I have to travel to the ends of the globe to meet them."

But perhaps one of the most important benefits to UCT of the vice-chancellor's participation is to the university's reputation. "The fact that we're there in itself signals the stature of the university," says Price. "Davos also gives me an opportunity to promote the university to opinion leaders, journalists, politicians, African heads of governments, and investors seeking to do business in Africa." ■



International bandwidth is bumped up

Information and Communication Technology Services recently bought more international Internet bandwidth, which was commissioned on Monday, 5 March. This substantial increase takes our international bandwidth from 271Mb to 543Mb. This will ensure that there is enough capacity not only for the first vanguard of undergraduate and honours students who are using the myUCT cloud-based email solution, but also for other Internet usage. ■



UCT Press is a traditional university press in every sense of the word – publishing peer-reviewed books written by UCT authors and other academic

institutions from SA and abroad. But it's even better than that; after a few years in the doldrums, the label has gone from strength to strength over the past few years, thanks to the backing of one of the country's best publishing houses, Juta.

Who is UCT Press?

Originally started by former UCT professor Martin Hall in 1994, UCT Press was run from the Centre of African Studies. In 1998, Juta and Company Ltd bought 100% of the press from UCT, moved the UCT Press offices to their premises in Wetton, and took over the sales, marketing and warehousing of books. Today, UCT Press is run by Juta, Sandy Shepherd and a UCT editorial board that meets on a quarterly basis to review forthcoming titles.

What are its objectives?

The Press aims to publish peer-reviewed scholarly books of a high standard, and has an interest in books dealing with the African context. Its objectives are to promote the research of Africa's highest-rated university, UCT, although not exclusively. The press does this by publishing the work in book form and marketing and selling it locally and internationally. It aims to produce academic works, but also books that cross over to a general readership, thus providing a bridge between the campus and the community.

What does it publish?

UCT Press publishes non-fiction, largely in the area of the humanities, but also business management, development studies, environmental studies, law and public administration, all with an African perspective. The books may be single-author or multi-author works. It does not publish doctoral theses, except if they have been reworked into book form.

How is it run?

Interested authors are invited to complete a publishing proposal form, together with a table of contents and a sample chapter, which are submitted to the editorial board. Following approval of the proposal, the final manuscript is submitted to UCT Press and sent out for peer review to at least two reviewers, and then goes back to the board for the go-ahead. Depending on the anticipated sales of a title, UCT Press may or may not request authors to find funding to assist with the production process. Juta and UCT Press oversee the editing, typesetting and printing of the books, and outsource the sales and distribution of the printed copies through Blue Weaver in southern Africa. The most recent books are also sold as e-books.

Contact

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Medicine hails its medical scribes



Writing records: Prof Lionel Opie (second from left), here with Prof Marian Jacobs, deputy vice-chancellor Prof Danie Visser and Prof Bongani Mayosi, was among the researchers honoured by the Department of Medicine for their publishing achievements.

Publishing typically comes at the end of a very long to-do list for those lecturers-cum-clinicians-cum-researchers in UCT's Department of Medicine.

When they do publish, however, they do pretty well, as witnessed when the department honoured 39 researchers who have made "seminal contributions to medical science through their publications" at a dinner at the Cape Town International Convention Centre on 25 February. The number 100 was a recurring theme on the evening – the event kicked off the Faculty of Health Sciences' Centenary celebrations, and the department

had elected to celebrate papers that have been cited at least 100 times.

They were surprised to find out that no fewer than 39 researchers had hit this "classic" mark with at least one paper, reported head of department, Professor Bongani Mayosi.

"This concentration of high achievers in one medical department is unprecedented on the African continent," he said.

More than that, many of the 39 had published two or more papers to reach the standard-bearing century. And some papers had been cited a couple of hundred times – one by Professor Eric Bateman of the department's

Division of Pulmonology over a thousand times, for example.

But the star of the evening was 79-year-old Professor Lionel Opie, co-director of UCT's Hatter Cardiovascular Research Institute, who received a very special version – code for 'bigger' – of the award presented to other researchers. By one count, Opie has published 534 scientific articles, 31 books on heart disease and 141 contributions to other books.

And no fewer than 52 of his articles have been cited at least 100 times.

The trick is to generate the next generation of Opies, said the dean,

Professor Marian Jacobs. The faculty takes the research endeavour very seriously, she explained, and has put in place a number of measures to encourage research and publishing across the board, from including a compulsory research project in the undergraduate curricula to setting up fellowships and research sabbaticals for senior academics.

It's not just an exercise in vanity, either, said Jacobs.

"Our research is not simply intended to generate knowledge for knowledge's sake, but rather and particularly to improve the lives of these we serve." ■

Global open education week

This week UCT takes another step towards an open UCT. Or, more technically, towards OpenUCT, whose aim is to make freely available as many as possible of those UCT-generated scholarly resources that can be shared, including research, teaching and popular scholarly resources.

From 5 to 10 March, UCT will be one of about 130 organisations across the globe that will participate in the first annual Open Education Week. This international event is, as such, staged by the OpenCourseWare Consortium, an international collaboration of higher education institutions and organisations of which UCT is a member.

Open Education Week aims to raise awareness about the benefits of free and open sharing in education, especially open educational resources, or OER.

At UCT, the week's line-up kicks off on 6 March with an afternoon event on what open education is, its role at UCT, what open education means for higher education and

schooling, and much more.

"The main objective is to increase awareness across campus and the Western Cape of how open initiatives can broaden learning opportunities," said Glenda Cox of UCT's Centre for Educational Technology (CET).

This year may mark the first Open Education Week, but the CET has staged similar occasions of its own.

Over the past two years the centre has hosted its own open access events, in a bid to free access to research articles for all students and researchers. Last year, UCT furthered its pledge to 'openness' by signing the Berlin Declaration on open access, one of a number of global declarations in which institutions commit themselves to accelerating efforts to promote open resources, technology and practices in education.

"This is the ideal opportunity to find out more about OpenUCT initiatives that are in place," Cox says of Open Education Week.

For the full programme, visit <http://openuct.uct.ac.za/>. ■



Then

As student numbers swelled in the 1920s, the Medical School's clinical teaching venues – the New Somerset Hospital and the Peninsula Maternity Hospital – could no longer meet the demand. So from the moment of its inception the school pressed for the construction of a modern general teaching hospital on the edge of the Groote Schuur Estate, to which the school would move in 1928. From 1933, students also started clinical training at the Free Dispensary in town and the Victoria Hospital in Wynberg. And even the opening of the 800-bed Groote Schuur Hospital in 1938 didn't quite meet the growing demand.

Now

These days all health sciences students, from those in MBChB training to audiology, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech language therapy, complete their hands-on training across some 87 training facilities. These range from primary hospitals, district hospitals, secondary hospitals, tertiary hospitals, psychiatric hospitals and specialised hospitals, to a rehabilitation facility, metro ambulances, schools, retirement homes, and NGOs and private institutions. The newest facilities are the Vanguard Student Learning Centre in Bonteheuwel, and similar – if smaller – centres in Retreat and Hanover Park.

Sure, empathy – that capacity to recognise and share common feelings with other beings – may be a universal among humans, but recent research shows that this complex phenomenon may be affected by various interpersonal and cultural factors. For example, we are more likely to have enhanced empathy for members of our own group, than for outsiders.

So imagine the many faces of empathy in multicultural South Africa, where groups haven't always seen eye to eye.

A new study at UCT wants to more than just imagine. Employing scenarios seen at the hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), researchers hope to map brain empathic responses to expressions of forgiveness and remorse in post-apartheid South Africa.

The cross-disciplinary endeavour, which was pioneered by former psychology lecturer Professor Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela (now at the University of the Free State), brings together the expertise of the Department of Psychology's Professor Mark Solms, postdoctoral student Melike Fourie in the Department of Psychology, Professor Dan Stein of the Department of Psychiatric Health and UCT's Brain Behaviour Initiative (BBI), and Professor Jean Decety of the University of Chicago, US, a leading scholar on the social neuroscience of empathy (see sidebar).

"The team brings together a range of expertise to focus on key issues regarding the ability to empathise with others, and willingness to forgive, which are crucial in post-apartheid South Africa," said Stein about the BBI's involvement. "The BBI aims to do research that is particularly relevant to South Africa."

Consisting essentially of two parts, the first part of the study will examine the brain responses of a group of men and women (half black and half white) between the ages of 35 to 50 to portrayals – reenactments of scenes from the TRC – of victims showing forgiveness or no forgiveness, and of perpetrators displaying remorse or no remorse.



Feelings you can't hide: Dr Melike Fourie is leading a multi-disciplinary study that employs TRC footage to measure empathy in post-apartheid South Africa.

Empathy – the South African way

A new study led from UCT will use scenes from the TRC to explore empathic responses of South Africans across cultures and divides.

While viewing these video clips, researchers will then capture the neural 'empathic' responses in the brain using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI).

The study's second segment will examine the specific neural differences that may exist between black and white people when viewing in- and out-group members in distress.

"While we know that people tend to respond with an in-group empathic bias toward members of the same racial group versus members of a different racial group, we do not know



The way we're wired: US academic Prof Jean Decety is working with a UCT group studying empathy in post-apartheid South Africa.

Empathy on the mind

Prof Jean Decety of the University of Chicago, US, a leading scholar on the social neuroscience of empathy, recently visited UCT as a guest of the departments of psychology and psychiatry and the Brain Behaviour Initiative. Decety, who also delivered an open lecture here, forms part of a group, led by UCT researchers, investigating the enduring and cross-generational effects of apartheid. The study, which was pioneered by psychology lecturer Assoc Prof Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, aims to unravel empathy at a neural level, using psychophysiological and neuroimaging techniques. The study will draw on the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings.

how and whether this response is affected by significant previous racial discrimination," says Fourie.

So first up, researchers want to explore the neural correlates of empathy using an ecologically valid approach, ie exactly what goes on in the brain when perceiving real people in emotional distress. In addition, they want to investigate the enduring effects of systemic racial discrimination during apartheid on bidirectional empathetic responses – a sort of empathic quid pro quo – between black and white South Africans today. "We believe that the historical experience of being white or black during apartheid may have lasting, intergenerational consequences in the way people respond to racially charged situations," says Gobodo-Madikizela.

"If we find significant differences [in the neural responses of black and white groups] the last phase of the study will focus on psychoanalytical interviews to explore possible implicit factors linked to these responses," says Fourie.

The initial phase of the study will conclude late-2012, early-2013. After that, the scope of the study will extend to how people who suffered significant childhood maltreatment may differ in their responses to empathy-eliciting stimuli, compared to individuals without childhood hardship.

"Trauma is a significant issue in the South African context," says Fourie. "In a previous adult study sample, nearly 50% of participants had experienced some form of maltreatment as a child."

And the study shows potential for international application too. On a recent visit to UCT, Decety – as a guest of the departments of psychology and psychiatry and the Brain Behaviour Initiative – said about the research: "The study will tell us so much about empathy and forgiveness in the South African context. But a lot that we learn will also be transferable cross-continently."

Researchers have just received ethical approval for the research, and plan to start scanning people mid-2012. ■

eResearch site launched at UCT

UCT's Information and Communication Technology Services has launched an eResearch website (www.eresearch.uct.ac.za) that offers staff and post-graduate students a central point from which to access research support, management tools and information that is currently spread across various web pages at UCT.

The site has a host of valuable information that has been sorted into easy-to-navigate sections. Each section has links to a number of portals, external databases and services available for researchers. These links make it easier for researchers to find the information that they need. One such link provides access to the Research Professional Africa website, where numerous research funding opportunities can be found and applied for through UCT's Research Office. The Research Africa news and UCT research news, Research Portal News blog and news archives have also been added to the site, so researchers can read the latest research news from one central place.

One of the highlights of the site includes access to various self-help tools. For example, the four Reference Management Tools listed on the site can help researchers to collect and manage references from various online databases, or help them to construct and manage bibliographies and publication citations in their reports and manuscripts. Then there is the searchable Research Facilities Database, which lists equipment and research facilities that are already available on campus. The database includes contact information

to make it easier to access these expensive resources.

The site also lists various support services available to researchers, such as the data capture service for multiple choice questionnaire papers or survey responses. The video conferencing consultation support service is available to help researchers set up a video conference at UCT. The High Performance Computing service and systems provide multiple processors to enable the solving of advanced computation problems. Researchers are invited to give their input on the eResearch Discussion Board topics; to suggest more links; and to use the Feedback tool to submit suggestions and comments.

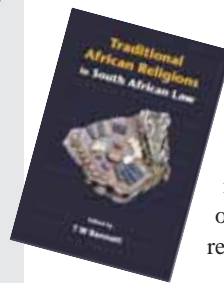
UCT staff members and postgraduate students (master's level and above) can access the site using their UCT username@wf and network password. The site can also be accessed off-campus through the Virtual Private Network.

The eResearch site is a step closer to the Research Portal that has been on the cards for many years. Putting together the Research Portal is a complex task that requires extensive planning, integration and consultation. The initial version of this portal will go live later this year.

In the interim, the eResearch site provides a solid foundation from which researchers can find researcher-specific information and resources. For progress updates on the development of the Research Portal, see the Research Portal News blog (<http://blogs.uct.ac.za/blog/research-portal-news>). ■

By the Book

Traditional African Religions in South African Law, edited by UCT law professor Thomas Bennett, considers whether indigenous African religions, independent African churches and traditional practices deserve constitutional protection and recognition by the state. While there are numerous works on the subject of religion in Africa, there are no works on traditional African religions and their legal implications. *



Accountable Government in Africa: Perspectives from Public Law and Political Studies is edited by Assoc Prof Danwood Chirwa and Lia Nijzink of the Department of Public Law. Combining insights from public law and political studies, this edited volume looks at various institutions and mechanisms of accountability. *



Late in 2011, UCT's Emer Prof John de Gruchy, now a fellow of the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS), released *The Humanist Imperative in South Africa*, the first in a new STIAS series of publications. It comprises 26 essays and reflections originally presented at two symposia of the New Humanism Project in 2009 and 2010.



Rural Resistance in South Africa: the Mpondo Revolts After Fifty Years, co-edited by Prof Lungisile Ntsebeza of the Department of Sociology, presents a fresh understanding of the Mpondo uprisings during the 1950s and 1960s. While much has been written about anti-apartheid resistance in the country, this book covers the oft-overlooked part played by rural people. *



*Published by UCT Press.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

of Katherine Traut and Raymond Botha, photographers in the Publications and Information Unit in the Communication and Marketing Department

What does their day look like?

The two photographers may be staples at events around campus, clicking and flashing away, but that is just one part of the job. The day starts with a daily briefing, after which they have to attend to emails and messages that require urgent attention, be it making appointments or sending off images to the external press and others. Then the fun starts. The better part of their day is spent photographing news-related events in and around UCT campuses, snapping high-profile academics, visitors, researchers, and students and staff partaking in everyday – and sometimes fun – UCT activities. Once the photographs are taken, Traut and Botha file and caption them for publishing, be it on the UCT online news site or in the unit's various print publications such as *Monday Paper*, *UCT Alumni News*, the *Vice-Chancellor's Report* and *Campus Sport*, to mention but a few. They are also required to shoot special projects.

What are the challenges of the job?

The greatest challenge is time management. No matter how well they plan their days, there are always new priorities. These are particularly challenging when on deadline. Also, certain people would demand that their photographs be taken

in a way that does not fit the brief. But these are challenges they love to face head-on, they say.

What's the best part of the job?

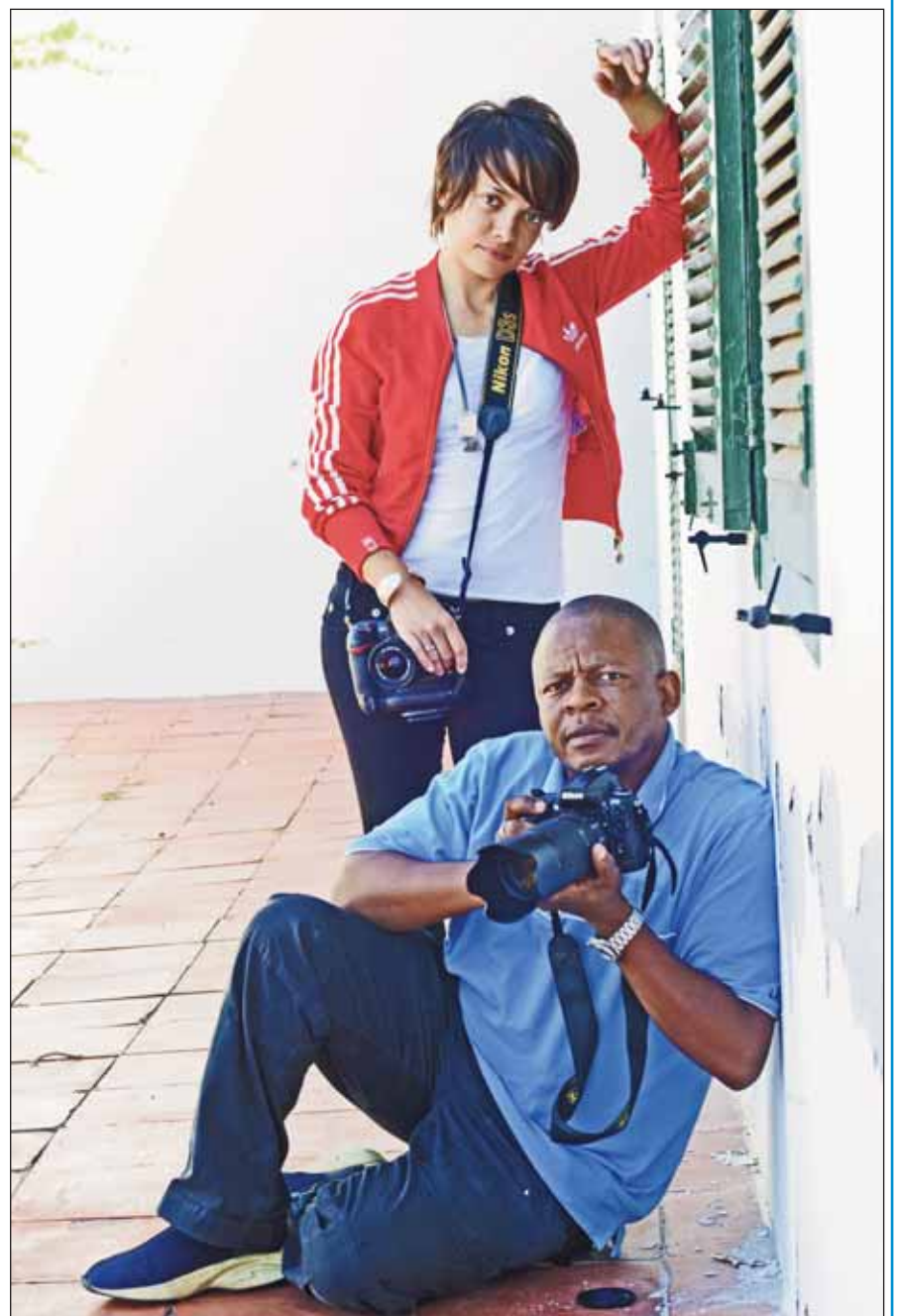
Being a photographer means that there is always something new, whether it's meeting new people, capturing the latest scientific finding or visiting new places. And that's what keeps the job interesting and fresh for Traut and Botha. "I've wanted to be a professional photographer since I was a toddler," Traut says. "For years I would use any camera I could lay my hands on so that I could capture the moment in front of me."

And the worst?

Covering early-morning or late-night events – and there are many – can be a downside. At times the photographers have to attend events that require them to be there well ahead of time or stay late to get "that picture".

What are the weirdest parts of the job?

The two shutterbugs are both on the short side and on more than one occasion they've needed a step-ladder to capture that perfect shot. "For the four years I've been working here, it's been a running joke that I should carry a step around, just in case," Traut smiles. ■



Life of the lens: Katherine Traut and Raymond Botha make sure that UCT and its citizens always look pretty as a picture.

It's game on for new Careers Service director

Irishman David Casey started as the new director of UCT's Careers Service in December 2011. Casey was previously deputy director of University College Dublin's Career Development Centre, after extensive experience as a careers advisor at both the University College Dublin and the University College Cork in Ireland. Prior to this, Casey had set up and managed a graduate training programme in Connecticut, US. He graduated with a degree and higher diploma in education from the National University of Ireland, a higher diploma in school guidance counselling from the University of Limerick, Ireland, followed by a master's in education leadership from the University of Hull, UK. He began his career as a careers guidance counsellor at high schools in Ireland. We spoke to him briefly.



align the delivery of careers education, information and guidance with the university's strategic plan. We have to also enhance the UCT curriculum through the development, delivery and assessment of a series of careers education

modules. The Careers Service aims to help all students make the most of their university experience. We facilitate informed career decision-making and development, and educate students about graduate attributes and how to manage effective transitions from UCT. Our priority in 2012 will be the total redevelopment of the Careers Service website. The new site promises to host a range of online services that will be available to students and alumni 24/7. Such initiatives include an online careers library, assessment tools, and e-guidance incorporating social and other online media at web 2.0 standards. One of my key strategic goals is to make the department outward-facing. UCT's Careers Service currently works from a model of generalist careers advisors; moving forward, we are looking to place specialist careers advisors in each faculty to work with staff and

students to promote students' continuing personal and professional development.

From student to employee: how can UCT's Careers Service help along the way?

Academic achievement alone will not guarantee the majority of graduates employment. In addition to a solid academic record, potential employers also consider relevant work experience and extra-curricular activities like voluntary work in the community and university club/society involvement. The key to successful career development is early engagement with students, starting at the pre-admissions stage to understand initial career decision-making. We take students through the paces of developing career management skills by providing career information, advice and opportunity services. We strive to achieve this

through the following interventions: a well-resourced Career Information Centre, workshops and quick-query advisory sessions, part-time work opportunities, employer events and recruitment programmes as well as a Careers Service email alert system.

What made you decide to take up employment in distant South Africa?

As a careers advisor I always encourage students to look at the broader application of internationalisation, and I hadn't practiced what I preached. The time was right and I felt I had the skills and experience I needed to make a positive difference at UCT. We, at UCT's Careers Service, have great expertise and knowledge. It's a very good team to come into and they're ready and willing to take the department to the next level. Game on! ■

What does 2012 hold for UCT's Careers Service?

The first priority will be to

Commission gets underway

The Admissions Commission that will look into UCT's admissions policy has finalised its composition. The members are as follows:

- Judge Craig Howie (chairperson), member of the UCT Council
- Graeme Bloch, member of the UCT Council
- Professor Lungisile Ntsebeza, professor of sociology at UCT
- Professor Crain Soudien, deputy vice-chancellor
- Professor Neville Alexander, director of

the Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa

- Professor Nan Yeld, dean of Higher Education Development (co-opted to the commission given her expertise in CHED matters and benchmark testing)
- Alexander Spoor – Students' Representative Council

The commission is supported in its work by Royston Pillay, director in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor.

The commission is in session and has invited inputs from internal and external

persons (the submission deadline was Friday, 9 March). Thereafter, the commission will deliberate the issues raised by respondents and also make a determination as to who it would wish to invite for oral interviews.

The provisional timetable is as follows:

- 9 March - Deadline for submissions
- 29 March - The commission will meet to decide who it will invite for interviews
- 15/16/17 May - Oral hearings

Subsequent to the oral hearings, the commission will deliberate to formulate its recommendations. ■

FELLOWSHIPS: call for nominations

The Fellowships Committee calls for nominations for the award of fellowships. Members of Senate and staff eligible for the award are invited to submit nominations. Applications are open to members of academic staff appointed to permanent posts on or before 1 January 2008. Persons whose candidacy for the award was considered in 2009, 2010 and 2011 may not re-apply and may not be re-nominated. Nominations and applications are to be submitted to the Registrar (for attention: Mrs D Benjamin, Room 141, Bremner Building) by Friday, 6 April 2012. ■

EVENTS

Philosophy Society Meeting

When: Tuesday 27 March @ 20h00.
Speaker: Dr Laurence Bloom. Title: The Apology of Socrates: an argument for the examined life. Venue: Lecture Theatre 2, Humanities Building

VACANT POSTS

EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:

Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer: Music Technology, SA College of Music, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 23 March 2012

Lecturers (X2), Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 30 March 2012

Professor/Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer: Urban Design, School of Architecture, Planning & Geomatics, Faculty of Engineering & The Built Environment, Closing date: 10 April 2012

Charles FM Saint Chair of Paediatric Surgery & Head of Division, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 16 April 2012

RESEARCH, PROFESSIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT POSTS (PASS)

Primary Health Care Nurse, Student Wellness Service, Department of Student Affairs, Closing date: 12 March 2012

Senior Secretary, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 12 March 2012

IT/Web Content Coordinator, Faculty Administration, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 12 March 2012

Assistant Finance Manager, Department of Finance, Closing date: 12 March 2012

Assistant Finance Officer, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 12 March 2012

Human Resources Advisor, HR Department, Closing date: 12 March 2012

Manager: Events & Public Relations, Communication & Marketing Department, Closing date: 14 March 2012

Administrative Assistant, Department of Radiation Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 15 March 2012

HRD Learning Development Coordinator, HR Department, Closing date: 16 March 2012

Medical Officer (Part-time),

Department of Student Affairs, Closing date: 16 March 2012

Assistant Finance Officer, Faculty of Finance, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 19 March 2012

Writer, Communication & Marketing Department, Closing date: 23 March 2012

Part-time Research Nurse, Mthatha (IMPI Trial, Eastern Cape), Department of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 23 March 2012

Cluster Manager: Funding And Committees, Research Office, Department of Research And Innovation, Closing date: 26 March 2012

Planning Officer, Institutional Planning Department, Closing date: 26 March 2012

POSTS FOR UCT STAFF ONLY:

To view the full advertisements and application requirements for each post, please visit www.uct.ac.za and click on "Vacancies"

PROPERTY/ACCOMMODATION

Retire at the seaside? Three-bedroomed cottage for private sale, R1.125m, Kommetjie. Outside room can be developed as teen pad/studio/garage. Call 0735997537.

House Swap: Academic seeks family house swap in CT area, Dec - early Jan. Charming historic village next to Cambridge (UK). Cat lovers preferred! sch30@cam.ac.uk

University Estate, Woodstock: Student accommodation available 1 March 2012, One bedroomed flat attached to a secure family home, Female students only R 4 200.00 p/m excluding electricity which is on a prepaid meter. Please contact Martine stonecast@iafrica.com 0835954240"

Mowbray: Flatlet, Little Mowbray. Available 1 March. Large bedroom with dressing area, kitchenette, full bathroom. Separate entrance. Suitable for graduate student. R2,800 p.m. Call 021 686 0074 or 0763127393

Pinelands: Home For Rent 4-bedroomed family home to rent in Pinelands. Wooden floors throughout. Open plan leading onto beautiful patio and pool. 2 bathrooms (one en suite). Parking for at least 3 cars. Garden with veggies to boot. R13000, p/month Inclusive of water and live-in housekeeper (available to work 3 days a week). Electricity for your own account. Call 0721837866

Wanted: Visiting professor is looking for housing for the months of June and July - I'll be in town from Johns Hopkins University with husband

and daughter. Prefer 2+ bedrooms and proximity to campus or City Bowl. I have a budget to pay for accommodation, and am also willing to housesit. Please email ifolda@jhu.edu

Rosebank: (Ambleside) 1 bedroom apartment, tastefully furnished. Security, parking, pool, laundry. Six-month lease (April- Sept.) to postgraduate visiting academic, non-smoking. R4500 0216858959

Wanted: Responsible international consultant, long-term UCT associate, seeks house-sit for mid-March - April, or part thereof. Need to be in Cape Town for professional reasons and will look after your apartment/house for free. Contact Penny Urquhart on motswiri@iafrica.com or 072 545 2256

Constantia: Cottage in leafy Constantia on quiet cul-de-sac adjoining green belt. Close to all amenities - shops, walking, cycling, winefarms etc. Single bedroom, and large lounge/ dining room adjoining fitted kitchen. Private and secure with off street parking. Unfurnished and would prefer longer term let - would suit single non-smoker. Rental R 5500 negotiable. Contact Peter 082 853 6116. Email peter.hodkinson@uct.ac.za

Woodstock: Room to let for female student, Self catering, own toilet & shower. Near all amenities, in Woodstock. R1200.00 per month. Contact: 076 997 6919

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Ray-Bans: Brand New Raybans in case and box. Never been worn. Valued at over R1600 selling for 1200 neg. Contact 0823453865

Book: Title: My Journey Author: Victor Matfield Price: R150 new still wrapped tel: ext.4739 or 0716775061

Book: Title: Back to Work Author: Bill Clinton (ex american president) Price: R130 new tel: ext. 4739 or 0716775061

Mags: VW Golf Mags and Tyres for sale. Contact 0723035203

CD: Artist: Lindsey Buckingham (Fleetwood Mac) guitarist latest solo album Title: Seeds We Sow R140 new still wrapped tel: ext. 4739 or 0716775061

Hammer: Lasher Yellow Ball Point Hammer worth R120 Selling for R80 new not used tel: ext.4739 or 0727802784

Axe: Lasher Yellow 1.8kg Poly Handle Axe worth R269 Selling for R200 new

not used Tel: ext.4739 or 0727802784

Camera Body: Canon 350D digital SLR with spare battery, memory cards, software, user manual, etc., but no lenses. R2,500. Tel: 0824967916 Andy Duncan

GENERAL

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Science tutor: (Physics and Chemistry) required for matric learner, Please contact Nafia at 021-6892196.

Domestic worker: Cynthia, our reliable domestic worker is looking for work on Mondays. Please contact eliza.hui@uct.ac.za

Volunteers with: Obsessive-compulsive disorder, hair-pulling disorder, social phobia and skin picking wanted! Contact:Christine 0219389179/ CL2@sun.ac.za OR Bronwynne 0219389762/ bronwynne@ sun.ac.za

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Heads together: There's plenty for the Ikeys to think about in coming weeks.

UCT Ikeys snatched a draw from the jaws of victory when a late goal pinned the home team to a frustrating 29-29 draw against North-West University Pukke in the FNB Varsity Cup on Monday, 5 March.

A windy Green Mile was treated to some entertaining rugby with both sides racking up four tries (and a bonus point apiece). And as has become the norm for blustery days at UCT, teams appeared to do better playing against the wind, compelled as they are to hang on to the ball.

Case in point, UCT – wind at their backs – quickly touched down twice in the first half, but could manage ‘only’ a 24-5 lead by the break as Pukke weathered the early storm and, for much of the half, dominated possession and territory.

The second period saw ongoing concerted pressure from Pukke finally bear fruit when a goal narrowed the gap to 24-13. But the home team were having none of it, and Ikeys fullback Dillyn Leyds secured the bonus point when he broke from UCT’s twenty-two, although

a missed conversion meant the score jumped only to 29-13.

With ten minutes on the clock and 16 points separating the sides, few would have foreseen the pandemonium that was about to unfold. First, Pukke captain Joubert Engelbrecht touched down (29-21) to set up a tense final few minutes.

Then, after the final hooter, UCT lost the ball in their own twenty-two and Pukke flyhalf Gerhard Nortier inflicted maximum damage by scoring and converting a heartbreaking (for UCT) try.

But again, coach Kevin Foote was frustrated at the number of times the Ikeys were being penalised by referees for offences few others could spot.

“I can’t understand what we’re doing wrong,” Foote said with a woe-ful shake of the head after the match.

The home draw leaves UCT in sixth place on the log, five behind fourth-placed Pukke and one behind Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. This week looms a trip to table-topping University of Stel-

lenbosch, and next Monday comes a home clash with third-placed University of Pretoria.

Despite the mountain the side will have to climb to stay in the competition, the Ikeys will not be giving up on a semi-final spot just yet, Foote added.

“The reality is that we won’t give up until mathematically we can’t,” said the Ikeys mentor, “so we’re going to have to see what the other results look like and take it from there.”

UCT hosts latest HIV/AIDS testing drive

As the Students’ Representative Council’s (SRC) Samantha Ncube points out, nobody needs telling how serious an issue HIV/AIDS is for society.

The health, safety and security co-ordinator thus joined her SRC colleagues in getting their HIV status tested as part of the launch of UCT’s First Things First (FTF) campaign on 28 February, a voluntary counselling and testing programme hosted by the Student Wellness Service in collaboration with the HIV/AIDS Institutional Co-ordination Unit (HAICU).

The FTF was borne of collaboration between the national De-

partment of Health, Higher Education HIV/AIDS (HEAIDS), the South African National AIDS Council, and 23 tertiary institutions around the country. It aims to test thousands of students for HIV and, at the same time, address HIV-related stigma.

Since the campaign was launched last year, 22 000 students have been tested. The 2012 instalment aims to take that number to as high as 35 000.

Lucina Reddy, project officer at HAICU and UCT coordinator of First Things First, explains that the campaign aims to instil a sense of responsibility into students regarding their sexual lives. ■



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